WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE HEARING RECORDS

2007-08

(session vear)

Assembly

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on Corrections and Courts (AC-CC)

(Form Updated: 07/24/2009)

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ANDY JORGENSEN

A voice for the 37th Assembly District, serving Jefferson & Dane Counties

HAND-DELIVERED

January 24, 2008

Chairman Garey Bies Assembly Committee on Corrections and Courts Room 125 West STATE CAPITOL

Dear Chairman Bies,

I am writing today to request that you consider scheduling a public hearing on a proposal that has been referred to your committee: Assembly Bill 562, relating to information provided by a person required to register as a sex offender.

As you may know, this bill mandate that a person who is required to register with the Department of Corrections as a sex offender must provide and update his or her e-mail accounts and the Internet address of every website he or she maintains for personal use.

I was excited to hear media reports that you planned to give AB 562 a hearing. I am glad to know that you, along with many of my constituents and colleagues, feel strongly that the update of the sex offender registry should be focused on in this legislative cycle. As we have very limited time left to get bills passed, I do hope that you will consider including AB 562 in a meeting soon.

Thanks for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions or comments about my proposal, I would welcome the opportunity to speak with you, at your convenience.

Sincerely,

ANDY JORGENSEN State Representative 37th Assembly District

CC: Rep. Jim Kreuser



LENA C. TAYLOR

Wisconsin State Senator • 4th District

HERE TO SERVE YOU!

TESTIMONY ON AB 562 2/13/2008

Chairman Bies, and members of the committee, I am Michelle Bryant, Chief of Staff for Senator Lena Taylor. Senator Taylor could not be present today, but asked that testimony on this critical legislation be read on her behalf.

Many will agree that, as parents, it takes everything we have to keep up with what our children are doing these days. Whether it be the Wii, IPhone, or Face Book, most kids can run circles around their parents on all things technologically related. It is common in many households, not just in the US, but around the world, to hear parents asking "What is that?" or "How does that work?"

However, this legislation speaks to an area, that we as parents, legislators, and concerned members of the community can not afford to get caught sleeping at the wheel. Cyberchats, Cybersex, and Cyberstings require that we keep up.

Reported on local news on February 5, 2008, a father in Louisville, Kentucky learned from his teenage daughter that a 16 year old girl that she met on MySpace, an internet site used by teenagers to talk with friends and meet others, shared with her that she was having sex with her father. The 16 year old offered to have the teen meet her dad because "he could do oral pleasure to her, if she chose". It turned out that the 16 year old girl was actually a 39 year old man that had just completed a 2 year prison sentence for possession of child pornography. This horror plays out everyday on the internet. Wisconsin is no exception.

4,000 arrests are made each year for Internet sex crimes against children. Wisconsin has more than 100 of these arrests each year.

In addition, Wisconsin has well over 17,000 registered sex offenders, most of whom are not under supervision. And here in lies the problem. While supervised by DOC, we have the ability to regulate the computer use and

internet access of registered sex offenders. Once they are released from supervision, all bets are off and in terms of the internet, they are left alone.

Prior to the internet explosion, 15 was the average age at which a child became exposed to pornography. Today the average age is 8!

In 2006, according to www.cybertip.org 76,000 cases of child pornography/solicitation were reported to this site. Internet solicitation has become the preferred method for predators to prey on young children. The access to victims is unlimited and so is the potential number of victims.

That is what makes AB 562 so relevant. With this legislation, we can protect Wisconsin families, in particular our children by requiring that registered sex offenders make known any website they operate or email address they use.

We already require disclosure of all their other relevant information, why wouldn't require this given all that we now know. Even for children and families doing everything that we've asked them to do; don't talk to strangers on line, don't give out your name and personal information to anyone, place filters on your home computer systems, predators have figures out a "back door" if you will to gain access to our kids. A system flaw, discovered by voyeurs using MySpace has allowed anyone who's interested to see the photographs and private profiles of users.

Theses profiles, which users believed where only available to people on their friends list, have been viewed by predators for the last several months, according to recent reports. The information of their friends have been viewed as well. So unwittingly, just by virtue of your child being listed on his or her friend's page, they could be the target of an online predator. On behalf of my 8 year old son, Isaiah and children across the state, I encourage your support of this bill.

Thank you.



LOCAL NEWS

MySpace's local sex offenders

10:47 PM EST on Tuesday, February 5, 2008

Adam Walser / WHAS11 News

• VIDEO: Is MySpace safe?

VIDEO: Ky Attorney General responds

Louisville, Ky (WHAS11) - MySpace is nothing short of a cultural phenomenon. In a few short years, it has created a whole new world within cyberspace, where nearly every teenager ventures.

Teenagers say they use MySpace to communicate with their friends, or catch up on the latest gossip.

Some say they can even catch up with past classmates, going as far back as kindergarten.

But not everyone on MySpace is a friend, as one man learned from his teenage daughter.

His daughter approached him about a 14-year-old girl named Tasha who said she was having sex with her father.

The person on the other end was not a 14-year-old girl, it was really 39-year-old Michael Potter, who almost immediately offered the 16-year-old girl sex.

The teen's father said, "(Potter) told my daughter he could do oral pleasure to her if she chose."

Potter had already served more than two years in prison for possession of child pornography before signing onto MySpace.

Potter didn't use his real name to sign up, but we found plenty of registered sex offenders who did. More than seven months after MySpace claimed that they had thrown all the sex offenders off the site.

In a WHAS11 News investigation, we compared the names and ages of the more than 850 registered sex offenders in Louisville, with the names of registered MySpace users.

In all, we found 17 matches. Each was a man between the ages of 22 and 53.

We couldn't prove some of the MySpace users were the same people listed in the sex offender registry, since many didn't have photos on their MySpace accounts.

But we did recognize some, who we decided to confront.

http://www.whas11.com/news/local/stories/020408whasckTonMuSpace 0c422c4c1cd

MySpace's local sex offenders | LOCAL NEWS | WHAS11.com | News for Louisville, K... Page 2 of 3

The first stop was at Troy Dever's house. After being convicted of having sex with a 14-year-old girl, Dever set up his website.

It includes pictures of his son's first day of school, and photos of his two favorite porno actresses.

Dever wasn't available for comment, as his father told us that he was still asleep and wouldn't be up until 4 p.m., but we did learn that Dever is currently unemployed.

We later talked to Troy on the phone, but he wouldn't agree to an on camera interview.

Thomas Hammond, who recently moved to Louisville, lives a few miles away from Troy Dever in an apartment. He was convicted in New York of having sex with a 15-year-old girl. He was then discharged from the army.

Hammond says on his MySpace site that he likes "sex, sex and did I mention sex?" He wasn't home when we dropped by.

Hammond is well known in the neighborhood.

He had apparently shared his past experiences with his neighbors because they knew that he had gotten into trouble for a sexual offense.

Despite his track record, neighbors say he has expressed interest in their younger sisters and cousins, who walk by the apartment going to and from their school bus stop.

One neighbor said, "He was over there hitting on them. Trying to flirt around with them."

The neighbor said that his cousin was only 17 years old.

One neighbor says Hammond asked her to come up to his apartment, and then gave her an unwelcome surprise

The neighbor said, "She said when he come to answer the door his stuff was hanging out."

Another offender, Malcolm Griffin, initially didn't remember signing up for MySpace.

When asked if he had a MySpace account, Griffin replied, "no".

I then asked for clarification if in fact he had never signed up for one, and again griffin replied, "no".

But when I confronted him with the evidence that showed his picture on the MySpace page, Griffin replied, "Oh that's MySpace. That's my record label."

Griffin said he only used the site to get word out about his latest album.

He says new MySpace rules potentially hurt his singing career.

Griffin said, "I'm 30 f...king years old. I've got four f... ing kids and I can't find a f...king job."

Griffin seemed to believe that the negative attention was making it more difficult to find a job and

http://www.whas11.com/news/local/stories/020408wbasakTonMasak

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launch a singing career.

And now Ricky Howell's MySpace account. Online, his life looks like a big party, filled with lots of female companionship.

Howell was convicted of sexually abusing a 13-year-old girl.

When we went to his residence, a local half way house, we didn't catch him at home.

Web story produced by Chas Kuhn











READ, EDIT, CONTRIE

RELAUNCHED USING THE SAME OPEN SOFTWARE USED BY WIKIPEDIA.

Politics : Security



MySpace Bug Leaks 'Private' Teen **Photos to Voyeurs**

By Kevin Poulsen 2 01.17.08 | 8:00 PM

A backdoor in MySpace's architecture allows anyone who's interested to see the photographs of some users with private profiles -- including those under 16 -- despite assurances from MySpace that those pictures can only be seen by people on a user's friends list. Info about the backdoor has been circulating on message boards for months.

Since the glitch emerged last fall, it has spawned a cottage industry of ad-supported websites that make it easy to access the photographs, spurring self-described pedophiles and run-of-the-mill voyeurs to post photos pilfered from private MySpace accounts.

The bug, and its long-term survival, raises new questions about privacy on the News Corp.-owned site, even as it touts a deal with the attorneys general of 49 states meant to polish its online-safety image.

"If kids are doing what they think they need to do, and are still having their photos picked up by slimebags on the internet ... then these are serious issues," said Parry Aftab, executive director of WiredSafety.org, a children's-online-safety group. "It's a matter of trust and it's a matter of safety." (WiredSafety is not connected to Wired News or Wired magazine.)

Representatives for MySpace did not return Wired News phone calls Thursday.

The flaw exposes MySpace users who set their profiles to "private" -- the default setting for users under 16 -- even though MySpace's account settings page tells users, "Only the people you select will be able to view your full profile and photos."

Clicking on the photo link on a private profile gives unauthorized users this message: "This profile is set to private. This user must add you as a friend to see his/her profile." But anyone -- even those without a MySpace account -- can plug the target's public account number, called a "Friend ID," into a specially constructed URL that grants access to those photos.

The only users safe from the exploit are those who have explicitly configured their MySpace photo galleries (and not just their overall profiles) to be

A similar technique in circulation allows third parties to see the friends list associated with a private profile.

The photo-gallery backdoor has been discussed on message boards for at least three months. In an October post on the music-oriented forum solth.com, a user asked a contingent of self-described "pedos" for help in accessing the photos of a 16-year-old girl who caught his eye online. "I got a

mission for all you pedo soldiers," he wrote, explaining that the girl's profile was private.
"I can get them. I know a way around it," another forum member responded. Minutes later, he posted direct links to 43 photos of the girl. By request, h posted links the next day for another 12 photos, belonging to a 15-year-old girl whose profile is also private. Sohh.com later banned a number of users who called themselves a "pedo army," for posting MySpace photo links for underage girls. (None of the posts appears to have involved, or alluded to, child pornography or other illegal conduct.)

Beginning in October, commercial websites began springing up to perform the MySpace hack automatically, while earning a buck through online advertising. The sites all allow you to retrieve photos from private profiles merely by typing in the Friend ID of a targeted user.

That ease of use has led to discussion threads on a wide variety of web forums, including an automotive forum: "For all you phedos (sic) out there."

Another thread appeared on the Slashdot-like technology news site Tribalwar.com.

At Tribalwar, a January poster tested one of the sites and reported on his successful pilfering of a randomly chosen 14-year-old girl's photo gallery "Since she's listed as 14 on her page, her MySpace puts her as private automatic," he wrote. "It worked and I was shown her pictures. Now lets see some naked sluts." Dozens of posts followed from other users, sharing Friend IDs and photo links for galleries they found interesting.

The photo leaks come at an inopportune time for MySpace. The company reached an accord with 49 state attorneys general Monday that was supposed to tie off a year of inquiries into safety issues on the site. The attention followed an October 2006 Wired News story on MySpace sex offenders. In that story we used special software to expose hundreds of registered sex offenders with accounts on MySpace. That prompted the social network to run its own computerized search, which turned up at least 29,000 registered sex offenders

In the deal with the state attorneys general, MySpace agreed to a laundry list of measures. These include removing the option for under-18 users to report themselves as "swingers" and setting underage users' profiles as private by default. The company is also forming a safety task force to explore options for online age and identity verification.

That the photo glitch has survived for so long in plain sight suggests MySpace has some more work to do. WiredSafety's Aftab says MySpace and other social networking sites should have teams that do nothing but test for bugs and monitor web forums for discussions about privacy glitches. "If this is something that's on the internet and people are talking about it, and MySpace doesn't know about it, they should know about it," Aftab said. "If any site promises that, in doing something, your information will be private ... and it turns out that's not the way it works, that could seen as consumer fraud under the FTC Act and 50 states' worth of consumer-protection laws.

860 diggs diggit



Stumble Upon

More Charges in MySpace Cyber Stalking Case MySpace Predator Caught by Code MySpace Passwords Aren't So Dumb A MySpace Cheat Sheet for Parents Murder on MySpace MySpace Kills Computer Security Website Search Wired

Dark Side of the Internet: Sexual Predators of Children

About the speaker: Eric Szatkowski

Eric has been a Special Agent with the Wisconsin Department of Justice/ Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) since 1991. He's currently assigned to the state's Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force in Milwaukee. Eric's law enforcement experience also includes murder-for-hire, cold-case homicides, death investigations, anti-government groups, fugitives, and narcotics enforcement.

Since 1999, Eric has become of the nation's leading undercover officers in apprehending sexual predators of children who use the Internet to seduce or exploit children. He has been responsible for the arrest of between 100 and 150 men from Wisconsin and around the nation, most of whom traveled various distances to have sex with what they believed to be an underage boy or girl. Eric's arrests also include those who sexually assault children, distribute, possess, and/or manufacture child pornography, and expose children to harmful materials.

His presentations inspired the drafting and passage of new legislation in Wisconsin in 2006, Assembly Bill 942. This law significantly increased the levels of felonies for online child exploitation, increased maximum prison penalties, and implemented presumptive minimum prison terms for online predators. Eric has also testified in court as an expert in the online sexual exploitation of children, and has provided assistance to dozens of law enforcement agencies in this area of police work.

Eric's work has been recognized by many organizations, including the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, and the Wisconsin Association of Homicide Investigators. Some of Eric's cases have been featured in numerous media outlets, including Cold Case Files, People Magazine, and MSNBC Investigates. He has been interviewed on Internet predators by dozens of television and radio stations, newspapers, and magazines.

General Information:

- Age 8 is the average age children are exposed to pornography today. Prior to the Internet, age 15 was the average age of exposure to pornography. Exposure can happen inadvertently as children legitimately search Internet for other kinds of information.
- 4,000 arrests each year for Internet sex crimes against children. Wisconsin has more than 100 arrests each year.
- Why is Internet preferred mode for predators? Unlimited access to victims and Unlimited number of victims
- www.cybertip.org --- Internet providers have to report tips of child pornography/solicitation to this site (providers like Yahoo, AOL, etc.) In 2006, 76,000 cases were reported to this site, all to be investigated. Majority of tips involve child pornography.
- 17,000 sex offenders now on registry in Wisconsin

Who is Most at Risk for online sexual solicitation by a predator:

- young teen girls, 7th-9th grade
- 25% are boys
- 50% believe they are in love
- Most kids who meet them online have sex encounters with predator more than once (because they become emotionally involved)
- Abused kids
- Unstable family

- Behavior problems
- Low self-esteem
- Naïve/curious

How are children victimized:

- Visiting pornographic sites
- Entering adult chat rooms no age verification
- Predators enter teen/kid chat rooms
- Instant Messaging/e-mails
- Interactive Online Games
- By placing information/pictures online for world to see
- Kids create profiles with personal information for game sites, social network sites, etc. when they don't need to

Social Networking Sites (MySpace, FaceBook, Xangsta, Friendster) -- According to an MSNBC report:

- -55% of children have established a social network site
- -70% included their first name on the site
- 67% included their age
- 61% included contact information
- 59% included their location
- 44% included e-mail address
- 44% included Instant Messaging name
- 39% included birthday
- 20% included their full name

Do "privacy settings" on these sites really work?

No. Privacy settings are just a term places like MySpace provide in order to give the impression of security to its users. It is given to dupe parents and kids into a false sense of security. A predator (obviously posing as someone other than a predator) simply needs to request permission to be added as a "friend" to someone's account. The whole idea of a social networking site is to keep adding "friends" to one's network, so it is very easy for predators to be added into "private" spaces.

ONLINE SOCIAL NETWORKING IS A BUFFET LINE FOR STALKERS, PERVERTS, PREDATORS

- -While not everyone who is on a social networking site is a predator, everyone who is a predator is on a social networking site.
- -Last year 800 predators from the sex offender registry list had sites on MySpace.

How do parents respond:

- 1. Head-in-the Sand parents they aren't up to date on what is going on, what their teens are doing on the Internet, the kinds of cyberactivities they engage in, and they don't supervise their children's activities. Kids are often logging on when parents are sleeping or aren't home and entering a dangerous environment
- 2. Best Friend, or Parent? "Best Friend" parents are afraid of violating their children's trust and/or privacy and in turn fail to protect children from exploitation by not providing enough restriction, supervision, or monitoring

What should parents do:

- 1. Supervision set up computers in a common area where children using computer are supervised by parents. Kids know how to get around filters in some cases. In addition, know where else your kids are going online (library, school, Internet cafés, etc.)
- 2. Set up Filters on your computer Filters such as NetNanny, Bsafe, Cyber Sitter, etc. You can set time controls to ensure that kids can't log on at certain times, filter out specified content, etc.
- 3. Use Monitoring Software (it records everything takes digital images of the computer screen while kids are using it then sends that collected information to Mom and Dad in an e-mail)

 Examples: www.guardiansoftware.com
 www.spectorsoft.com
- 4. Be careful with cell phones with camera features, digital cameras, video phones, etc.
- 5. Online game playing who is your child really playing a game with, and what information is he/she revealing about himself in the context of gaming?

SUGGESTED WEBSITES TO GET MORE INFORMATION

(for handout distribution at adult presentation)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List of social networking websites (List of all social networking sites and detailed descriptions of how they work; includes myspace.com, facebook.com, and xanga.com)

www.ncmec.org (National Center for Missing and Exploited Children)

<u>www.netsmartz.org</u> (Interactive site for ages 5 through 17 sponsored by NCMEC, for kids, students, parents, educators and law enforcement)

www.isafe.org (Similar to Netsmartz)

www.cybertip.org (Report suspicious online activity)

www.familywatchdog.us (Find out where registered sex offenders live in your neighborhood)

<u>http://offender.doc.state.wi.us/public//</u> (Wisconsin Sex Offender Registry)

www.netfamilynews.org ("Based on the premise that informed, engaged parenting is essential to kids' constructive use of technology and the Net.")

www.safekids.com ("Your family's guide to making the Internet and Technology fun, safe and productive.")

www.netlingo.com (Chat and computer terms, definitions, slang, acronyms)

www.spectorsoft.com (Example of monitoring software)

www.guardiansoftware.com (Example of monitoring software)

www.keykatcher.com (Example of hardware that secretly captures chat logs, e-mails, and website addresses; attachment plugs into your computer with your keyboard)

www.fbi.gov (Go to link called "For The Family" and then to Internet safety)

www.bsafehome.com (Filter example)

www.netnanny.com (Filter example)

www.cybersitter.com (Filter example)

<u>www.download.com</u> (Many examples/rankings of parental filters - - just click on link at web site; also, free downloads to remove spyware/adware)